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report giving no hint of activity on the part of the county council in the matter of recommending measures of taxation. The report leaves us to speculate, also, as to the future action of Parliament in the matter of transferring power to deal with the local railroads from the local authorities and the board of trade, which seem to have done the least possible, to the county council which manifestly stands ready to promote cheap transportation in and around London.

No student of municipal evolution can afford to neglect this chapter in the history of London, from the futile attempts in the middle of the century to deal with the insanitary districts by conferring power to regulate conditions upon the local authorities; through the second period of authorizing the metropolitan board of works to buy and clear areas, selling sites to corporations or persons contracting to build workmen's dwellings, to the present full-fledged municipal ownership of workmen's dwellings on the largest possible scale.

The usefulness of this report is enhanced by a full and clear table of contents, an alphabetical index, a list of plans, a table of statutes (beginning with 35 Eliz., c. 6, and ending with 63 and 64 Victoria, c. 59), an introduction giving "a short outline of the system which has obtained since 1855, the year in which corporate existence may be first said to have been conferred upon that part of London which had grown up outside of the walls of the ancient city," and Appendices A to J, containing much valuable material not easily included in the body of the report.

FLORENCE KELLEY.

The American Negro: What he was, what he is, and what he may become. A Critical and Practical Discussion. By WILLIAM HANNIBAL THOMAS. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901. 8vo. pp. xxvi + 440.

THE author of this work, himself partly of negro ancestry, has the courage to face clearly the fact, which so many sentimental writers on the negro problem avoid, that the real difficulty lies in the hereditary nature of the race. He perceives "the folly of saying that the negro has had but three decades of opportunity for self-culture, when, as a matter of fact, he has had an equal chance with the rest of mankind from the dawn of creation" (p. 369). Indeed, a gloomy and somewhat extreme view is presented of the character, or lack of character,

of the great mass of our negro population. Certainly the author's denunciation of prevailing degradation among the negroes seems at times overdrawn, yet unfortunately there is probably too much of truth in the picture.

The solution of the problem suggested, though not always consistently maintained, is the selective improvement of the race through the natural elimination of the more brutish and less redeemable elements which lack the stamina to adapt themselves to the moral and industrial requirements of civilized life. Two passages in which this solution is suggested are worthy of quotation :

The presence of negroes in the United States creates social conditions of importance to the present and future well-being of American ethical, economic, and political existence. That such conditions may in certain states eventually precipitate questions of supremacy between African savagery and English civilization is no idle surmise. Hence a question of immediate concern to the nation is, Shall the culture and achievement of the country be materially lessened through the continued indolence and imbecility of the negro? All historical experience shows that superior and inferior civilization cannot for a long time exist in the same social organism and be perpetuated in harmonious conjunction; one or the other will be overthrown and exterminated. The negro has nothing in word or act worthy of preservation. Each attribute of his being is obstinately and implacably arrayed against every influence that parts him from sensuous excitement; and when he gives to any uplifting movement verbal assent, he rarely translates speech into action. Wise judgment, therefore, decrees that negro pretensions ought to be suppressed and his evil propensities eradicated by every available means at command, even though such effort should end in his virtual extermination (pp. 362-363). . . . The adjustment and elimination of racial differences will finally come through sorting and sifting. The fit among us, either of black or white people, are bound to survive. The unfit will be pushed aside, but better so that the nation may live (p. 418).

Apparently the author thinks that only a small proportion of the negroes will resist the tendencies to degeneration and elimination (pp. 192-195, 365, 377). He regards the typical negro population with its present characteristics as unable morally and economically long to survive the stress of modern civilization :

The negro has thriven and increased in numbers, not because he possesses greater resistive power than other inferior races, or has acquired greater tenacity of existence here than in his native habitat. His survival is due to the fostering care with which slavery surrounded him during eight generations of servitude. Since the withdrawal of this supervision, the fact has

been made clear that the freedman is not of a hardy type, but is a perishable product who squanders his vital energies with reckless abandon (p. 411).

Various suggestions—chief of which are manual and technological education, and a plan of government allotment of farms to families on a sort of installment plan—are brought forward for the benefit of the more able, earnest, and aspiring element among the freedmen. But the real uplifting of the race is held to depend chiefly upon the effort and manfulness of the saving remnant capable of realizing the higher possibilities of life, coupled with the natural elimination of the inferior element.

The book would be vastly stronger if, in place of a vast amount of repetition and rather trivial matter with which it is largely filled, it presented more proof that it is the essentially better element among the negroes that is increasing from generation to generation. If the process of selection is working thus favorably, the race problem may solve itself very happily by the natural evolution of the *Über-Neger*; and the ultimate amalgamation of the white and negro population which the author foresees may not be an impossibility.

C. C. CLOSSON.

The Place of Compensation in Temperance Reform. By C. P. SANGER, M.A. London: P. S. King & Son, 1901. Crown 8vo, pp. 136.

THIS little volume is one of the series of valuable monographs edited by Professor W. A. S. Hewins, M.A., Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and has for its object a critical examination of the arguments for compensation to retail liquor dealers, or, as they are commonly called in England, publicans, when their business is interfered with by temperance legislation. The monograph is written with especial reference to conditions in Great Britain. As a result of a mistaken action of Parliament in 1830, whereby free trade in liquor selling was established, the number of licenses issued, it is generally admitted, was excessive. This action was not reversed until 1869, when for the renewal of the licenses issued up to that time the strongest guarantee was given. Since then, through unwise administration of the liquor laws by the justices, the situation has not materially improved. In the meantime there has been considerable agitation by the temperance party, on the one hand, for a